

The Conway Family Part 1 – A House on King Street

This month we will be featuring the Conway family through George Conway's line. On George Conway's marriage record it states that his parent's names were George (son of Nancy Hill and George Conway) and Catherine Conway, but other accounts record George as the son of Catherine Hatfield (the daughter of Charles Hatfield and Annie Highgate) and David Conway (the brother of George Conway and son of Nancy Hill and George Conway). According to Conway family history, David died during the Civil War and is buried in Beauford, South Carolina. David and his brother George joined the Union Army in Detroit.

David's brother George Conway married three times. Already mentioned is Catherine; George's first wife Margaret Johnson with whom he had two daughters, Harriet and Mary; and George's third wife Anna Sophie Henriette Nurnburger. George and Anna had at least three children: George Alexander, William Christian and Annie Sophia. George's second wife Catherine also married three times. Her second husband was from the Kersey/Corsey family and her third husband was Peter Dennis.

Catherine Hatfield Conway's son George Conway married Savina Pearl Thurman. Savina Pearl was born circa 1877 and was the daughter of Mary A. and Isaac Brooks (some documents list him as Jim). Because her parents' last name is Brooks, it means that Savina Pearl was previously married to a Thurman.

According to her obituary, Savina Pearl was "Born in Detroit, she has lived in Amherstburg since childhood. She is survived by five sons, Lionel, Lester and William of Amherstburg, Norman of New York and James of Cleveland; eight daughters, Mrs. D. (Katherine) Dillard of Amherstburg, Mrs. N. (Ruth) Trimm of Detroit; Mrs. C. (Thelma) Hogan

of Windsor, Mrs. J. (Marjorie) Collier of Cleveland, and Mary, Mona, Winnifred and Bertha Conway at home; and one brother; David Thurman. The funeral was held in the B.M.E. Church, Amherstburg.”

As mentioned in Savina Pearl’s obituary she had several children. Before we discuss their children, a few more details about George and Savina Pearl. According to the Marsh Collection, George Conway lived at 221 King Street (lot 18 East Side of King) from 1897 until his passing in 1938. In April 1929, the *Amherstburg Echo* states that “The family home in the early days was the house which for the last thirty-two years has been occupied by George Brooks on King Street. This house was built over seventy-five years ago by the late Major Stevens.” According to Doris Gaspar, “Although no documents are registered at the Registry Office, it appears that Joseph Stephens a younger son inherited Lot 18 on his parents’ deaths. Around 1900 Joseph Stephens moved to Cleveland. He rented his house to George Conway and in 1921 Joseph Stephens sold the property to Lionel Conway.” Lionel Conway is George’s son.

George and Savina Pearl married on June 26, 1893 in Windsor. George was a 24-year old farmer and bachelor born in Colchester South, while Savina Pearl Brooks was a 16-year old spinster born in Detroit. George and Savina Pearl had at least fourteen children: Orval, Lionel, Wilbur, Mary, Mona, Norman, James, Catherine, Ruth, Lester, Thelma, Bertha, Winnifred and Marjorie.

What we publish is not a complete history of any family and is based on the documents that are available. We welcome photos and information to fill in the gaps. See you next week for part 2.